

14 February 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Sections 64 and 65, proposed combination of

1. Today I discussed at luncheon with Kerim Key and Sam Berger the problem of obsolescence of Section 65. I said we are currently interested in reducing current intelligence content. We are also interested in getting the sections out faster. I said we were reducing the number of areas to be covered, hoping thereby to be able to maintain the sections more frequently.

2. Both Key and Berger applauded the idea. Berger said he had suggested this to [redacted] years ago. Key said he had not only discussed this with Mr. Simpson, his boss, but also deplored the duplicative and wasteful process of turning out Section 64 and 65. He had suggested that these two sections be combined. Mr. Simpson had said this would be impossible under the present organizational set-up. There was no way in which BDSA and BIP could operate jointly. Key would like to see the whole thing re-organized on a higher level and a combined Section 64-65 produced by a joint staff.

3. Organization, said I, was Commerce's problem, but I saw great merit in thinking further about simplifying the outlines of both sections and combining the product. Key said coverage in Section 65 of Banking and Finance structure, the general pattern and trends of International Trade, and such matters as Stock Exchanges and Controls were relatively permanent. Much of the other coverage could be reduced. We developed in ensuing conversation the idea that manufacturing, if approached from an industry rather than commodity basis, might concentrate better on basic intelligence. I said I would discuss this with PGB and [redacted] and probably draft a memo to use as a discussion paper in a meeting with him and Dr. Thibodeaux. I suggested that Mr. Key wait on us before trying to do anything about it.

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